

Listing of Claims:

The following claims listing supercedes any other listing of the claims of the invention.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic probe for an endoscope according to Claim 9[[1]], further comprising:

a flexible shaft which rotates the ultrasonic transducer using a driving motor.

5. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic probe for an endoscope according to Claim 9[[1]], further comprising:

a coating film which covers the ultrasonic transducer to protect it from the acoustic medium.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An ultrasonic probe for an endoscope comprising an ultrasonic transducer, the ultrasonic transducer comprising, by sequential lamination:

an acoustic lens;

an acoustic matching layer;

a piezoelectric element;

a backing member that attenuates ultrasonic waves and comprises a synthetic rubber having a mixture including acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), ethylene-propylene terpolymer (EPDM), and at least inorganic fine powders, and displays: 1) a hardness property of between 80 and 100 degrees in an A scale in conformity with JISK6253, and 2) an ultrasonic absorbing coefficient of 10 [dB/mm] or more at a frequency of 5 MHz; and

an exterior cap sealably covers the ultrasonic transducer and contains an acoustic medium comprising an aqueous solution that immerses the ultrasonic transducer and imposes a low attenuation on ultrasonic waves arriving at a surface of the ultrasonic transducer, which aqueous solution is obtained by adding an additive to the water, or oil that displays a low attenuation to ultrasonic waves, wherein upon immersion of the ultrasonic transducer in the aqueous solution, the backing member displays: 1) a percentage of absorption that is 2.5% or less and 2) an acoustic impedance that is within a range of 1×10^6 to 8×10^6 [$\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s})$].